

## Winning Home, Inc. Pledges \$351,333 to Programs for Local Children

*Woburn-based non-profit funds programs through organizations that serve disadvantaged youth*

**WOBURN, Mass.** (February 2018) **Winning Home, Inc.**, a private, non-profit charitable organization that provides services and support to economically, socially, physically, emotionally, or mentally handicapped or disadvantaged children and their families, announced today a total 2017 commitment of \$351,333 in grant monies to organizations devoted to supporting the development and welfare of area children. This number is up from \$263,333 in 2016.

“Winning Home has been funding programs that benefit children in Massachusetts since 1998, and we have been fortunate to aid valuable programs that directly enhance the lives of our local children,” said Tom Martin, president of Winning Home. “We are pleased to close 2017 with ample dispersed funds that support many new and returning programs, and are actively seeking applications for the 2018 grant season.” Winning Home is focused on children and their families predominantly on the North Shore of Massachusetts, and successfully closed the year by granting funds to 18 local programs, detailed below.

**Life Saver Ministries, Inc.: \$15,000** My Father’s House, a residential parenting program for homeless pregnant and parenting single women ages 13 through 21, is operated by Life Saver Ministries. While living at My Father’s House, mothers are required to complete high school, continue their education or career training, and find employment. Life Saver Ministries is wholly dependent upon private donations, grants and fundraisers.

**Lazarus House Ministries: \$25,000** Lazarus House supports families and individuals who are homeless and/or struggling with poverty by providing a clean, nurturing and safe environment for children while parents work to improve their living situation. This Winning Home grant will be used towards providing life-enhancing tools to parents such as employment assistance, ESL classes, and workshops on topics such as self-esteem, conflict resolution, and budgeting.

**Council of Social Concern: \$90,000** A charitable, community-based agency, Council of Social Concern requested funds to support agency programs that provide low-income children and their families with emergency and supplemental food assistance, affordable early education and childcare, parenting education classes, and support services.

**Raw Art Works: \$20,000** Supporting 500 at-risk youth in Lynn, Raw Art Works offers a continuum of more than 20 free programs in the arts, including an award-winning film school, visual and expressive art groups, single gender groups, mentoring and leadership development programs, community arts, summer programs, and free arts programming for at-risk elementary and middle school youth.

**The Children’s Room: \$10,000** The “Parenting While Grieving” educational series, hosted by The Children’s Room, teaches parenting skills and education on how children of different ages experience and express grief. This Winning Home grant will underwrite this program.

**Woburn Community Educational Foundation, Inc.: \$10,000** The mission of the Woburn Community Educational Foundation is to increase private investment and community involvement in the Woburn Public Schools, with a goal of supporting educational programs and initiatives that empower teacher creativity and innovation. Funds from Winning Home will provide resources to the Educator Grant Program, which invites educational professionals to apply for funds to support educational programs not funded by the regular school budget.

**Gaining Ground: \$10,000** a year for three years Gaining Ground in Concord, Mass. grows organic produce for hunger relief with help from 3,000 volunteers of all ages and abilities who work and learn in the fields. This year’s grant will enable partnerships with recipient organizations to increase the impact of food distribution through education, cooking classes, meal preparation, and free farmers markets.

**Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program: \$10,000** Lovelane is a therapeutic horseback riding program that provides services to 130 special needs children. Funds will be used for tuition assistance. Students range from two years of age through adulthood and come from 38 Massachusetts towns.

**Pathways for Children: \$10,000** Pathways for Children provides robust social services and education to children and families in a full-day, year-round environment with extended hours to provide flexibility to working parents. This grant will fund the School Age Care program, which provides ‘out of school time’ education for 70 K-12 students in the Gloucester center.

**Mission of Deeds: \$5,000** Mission of Deeds, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to assisting families or individuals transitioning to a new home after leaving a shelter. Funds will be used toward the purchase of 100 cribs and 1,500 beds to assure every child in the program has a bed in which to sleep.

**NEADS: \$10,000** NEADS provides service dogs to adults and children with physical difficulties, deafness, and autism. 2017 grant monies from Winning Home will be used to train and place dogs as assistants and companions to children on the autism spectrum.

**Horace Mann Educational Associates: \$3,000** Horace Mann Educational Associates serves more than 3,800 Massachusetts children and adults with autism or other special needs. The \$3,000 grant will be used to renovate the Darnell School for Educational and Behavioral Services in Hudson with new carpeting, fresh paint, and updated furnishings and artwork.

**Horizon’s for Homeless Children: \$15,000** Horizon’s for Homeless Children supports the social-emotional, physical and cognitive development of homeless children, enabling them to prepare

for school and life success. Grant monies will enable educators to enhance ongoing programs by funding part-time creative arts teachers, the purchase of arts and craft supplies, and support the practice of creating art outdoors.

**UTEC: \$10,000** UTEC is a newly-licensed center of early education focused on proven-risk adults and their young children. The goal of UTEC is to break the cycle of poverty and violence for these vulnerable young families by providing education and child care to parents while also providing high-quality early education to their children.

**Woburn Public Library Foundation: \$10,000** The Woburn Public Library Foundation provides community services, resident resources, and life-skills at no-charge. Funds from Winning Home will be used towards updating the furniture and fixtures of its Children's Room.

**The Open Door: \$5,000** The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger on the community by providing access to healthy and nutrient-dense food to those in need. Funds will be used to support three critical school-based Mobile Markets (free farmers markets) to low-income children and families in Ipswich and Gloucester.

**Seven Hills Pediatric Center at Hopedale: \$10,000** Seven Hills Pediatric Center will use its \$10,000 grant to help create a Snoezelen Room in their Hopedale location. A Snoezelen Room is a controlled multi-sensory environment that provides therapy to those with autism, developmental disabilities, dementia or brain injuries. The Hopedale Snoezelen Room will be utilized by the 12 children with severe cognitive disabilities and medical complexities who currently reside in the home.

**James L. McKeown Boys & Girls Club of Woburn: \$83,333** Winning Home has supported the Woburn Boys and Girls Club since 1998, with a 17-year commitment totaling \$1.6M in community support. The mission of Woburn Boys and Girls Club is to inspire youth to find their greatness, through programs centered on leadership, team-building, and community enhancement.

To apply for a Winning Home Grant, please visit [www.winninghome.org](http://www.winninghome.org).

**About Winning Home** The mission of Winning Home is to help local children and families in need. The Winning Home property was put into trust more than 100 years ago to be used as an orphanage and for the support of needy children. Since its conversion from a landowner to a charitable trust, Winning Home has granted more than \$4.3 M to area charitable organizations.